

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 4-7, if rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, as well as receipt of certified copies of each of the priority documents upon which the claim for foreign priority is based. Applicants would also like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 19, 2004, as well as consideration of each of the references cited therein.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9 will have been amended. The amendments to claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9 do not change the scope of these claims; rather, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and 9 have been amended to eliminate informalities and to more clearly recite the features of the claimed invention .

In the above-noted Official Action, claims 1-3, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over NAKATA (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,506). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-3, 8 and 9. In this regard, claim 1 recites a "focus detection device, comprising... a plurality of line sensors... a plurality of monitor sensors provided adjacent to respective said line sensors... a common output terminal for externally outputting a monitor signal which is output from each of said monitor sensors and said image signal which is output from each of said line sensors; and an output selection device for selectively outputting any one of said monitor signal and said image signal from said common output terminal". Applicants respectfully submit that.

NAKATA does not disclose, suggest or render obvious at least the above-noted combination of features recited in claim 1.

The outstanding Official Action asserts that the claimed “output selection device” is disclosed by the “integration control circuits” 225A, 225B, 225C of NAKATA. The outstanding Official Action also asserts that the claimed “common output terminal” is disclosed by the “wires connecting the monitors to integration control circuit” of NAKATA. Applicants respectfully submit that the above-noted assertions of the outstanding Official Action are in error.

The “integration control circuits” 225A-225C of NAKATA do not disclose or suggest an “output selection device for selectively outputting any one of said monitor signal and said image signal from said common output terminal” as recited in claim 1. In particular, the “integration control circuits” 225A-225C do not “selectively” output “any one of said monitor signal and said image signal from said common said output terminal”. Rather, a signal from a monitor sensor is output through the integration control circuits 225A-225C (see FIG. 2) of NAKATA, and an image signal from a line sensor in NAKATA is output through a video terminal (see FIG. 3) of NAKATA. In other words, the “integration control circuits” 225A-225C are not configured for outputting an image signal in NAKATA, let alone “selectively outputting... said image signal” as recited in claim 1.

Additionally, the “wires connecting the monitors to integration control circuit” of NAKATA do not disclose or suggest a “common output terminal” as recited in claim 1. In particular, such wires would not properly be considered a “terminal” by one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, the noted wires do not “externally” output “a monitor

signal which is output from each of said monitor sensors and said image signal which is output from each of said line sensors". Rather, such wires are only internal components of the circuit shown in FIG. 2 of NAKATA, and such wires are only shown between the monitor sensors (M1-M15) and the integration control circuit in NAKATA, but not between the line sensors (212A, 212B, 212C) and the integration control circuit 225A-225C.

Further, NAKATA does not show any "common output terminal" which is used by an "output selection device for selectively outputting any one of said monitor signal and said image signal" as recited in claim 1. Rather, as noted above the signal from a line sensor is output from a video terminal, whereas a signal from a monitor sensor in NAKATA is output to the integration control circuits, but there is no "common... output terminal" which is used by an "output selection device for selectively outputting any one of said monitor signal and said image signal".

Applicants also submit that the presently claimed invention provides benefits not provided by NAKATA. In this regard, an exemplary benefit of the invention recited in claim 1 is that a monitor signal of the monitor sensor and the image signal of the line sensor can be output from the same common output terminal, such that the monitor signal can be input to the same input terminal of an external device that receives an image signal. By outputting the monitor signal and the image signal from the same common output terminal, the number of input terminals of the external device does not have to be increased.

Accordingly, at least for each and all of the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention recited in claim 1 is not disclosed, suggested or

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rendered obvious by the reference applied in the outstanding Official Action.

Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of claim 1 over NAKATA, at least for each and all of the reasons set forth above. Applicants further submit that each of claims 2-9 is allowable over NAKATA at least for depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim 1, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations.

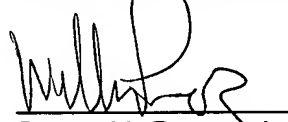
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believe that they have now done so. Applicants have amended the claims to more clearly recite the features of the present invention. Applicants have further discussed the features recited in Applicants' claims and have pointed out how these features are not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the disclosure of the references applied in the Official Action.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,
Masahiro NAKATA et al.



Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

William Pieprz
Reg. No. 33,630

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191